

Appln. No. 10/722,953

Attorney Docket No. 10641-1916

II. Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A system for contacting a vehicle occupant during sudden deceleration of the vehicle, the system comprising:

a contact surface for interacting with the vehicle occupant;

a fixed energy absorption device attached to a structural member of the vehicle;

a deployable energy absorption device in contact with the contact surface and the fixed energy absorption device; and

an energy absorption modifier in communication with the fixed energy absorption device for varying the energy absorption characteristics of the fixed energy absorption device, the energy absorption modifier being a pyrotechnic bolt that disconnects the fixed energy absorption device from the structural member of the vehicle.

2. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the contact surface includes a deformable foam layer.

3. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the fixed energy absorption device is a deformable metal bracket.

4. (Original): The system of claim 3 wherein the deformable metal bracket is a U-shaped bracket.

BRINKS
HOFER
GILSON
SLONE

-2-

Appl. No. 10/722,953

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1916

5. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the deployable energy absorption device is an inflatable airbag.

6. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the energy absorption modifier is a pyrotechnic device.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original): The system of claim 1 further comprising a frangible structural member connected at a first end to the contact surface and at a second end to the structural member of the vehicle.

9. (Currently Amended): A system for contacting a vehicle occupant during sudden deceleration of the vehicle, the system comprising:

a contact surface for interacting with a vehicle occupant;

a fixed energy absorption device attached to a structural member of the vehicle;

a frangible structural member connected at a first end to the contact surface and at a second end to the structural member of the vehicle;

a deployable energy absorption device in contact with the contact surface and the fixed energy absorption device; and

an energy absorption modifier in communication with the frangible structural member for varying the energy absorption characteristics of the frangible structural member, the energy absorption modifier being a pyrotechnic bolt that disconnects the fixed energy absorption device from the structural member of the vehicle.

BRINKE
HOFFER
GILSON
ALIONE

-3-

Appln. No. 10/722,953

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1916

10. (Original): The system of claim 9 wherein contact surface includes a deformable foam layer.

11. (Original): The system of claim 9 wherein the fixed energy absorption device is a deformable metal bracket.

12. (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the deformable metal bracket is a U-shaped bracket.

13. (Original): The system of claim 9 wherein the deployable energy absorption device is an inflatable airbag.

14. (Original): The system of claim 9 wherein the energy absorption modifier is a pyrotechnic device.

15. (Cancelled).

BRINKS
HOOPER
GILSON
ALLIONE